

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel all pending claims, *i.e.*, claims 1-15, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein and please add new claims 16-40 as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-15 (Canceled)

16. (new) A method for operating a manure conveyor device, comprising:
driving a first return roller, about which a manure conveyor belt circulates, at a first rotational speed;
driving a second return roller, about which the manure conveyor belt circulates, at a second rotational speed;
wherein during a first interval the first rotational speed exceeds the second rotational speed, and during a second interval the second rotational speed exceeds the first rotational speed.
17. (new) The method of claim 16, wherein the first return roller and the second return roller are driven in a same direction.
18. (new) The method of claim 16, further comprising driving the manure conveyor belt in a circulating manner underneath a manure-permeable floor.
19. (new) The method of claim 18, wherein the manure conveyor device is structured and arranged for use with livestock breeding operations.
20. (new) The method of claim 16, further comprising controlling the first rotational speed and the second rotational speed by frequency controllers.

21. (new) The method of claim 16, further comprising stopping the first return roller and the second return roller for a period of time between the first interval and the second interval.

22. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the period of time is one to four minutes.

23. (new) The method of claim 16, wherein:

during the first interval the first rotational speed is approximately 1.5 rpm, and the first return roller has a diameter of approximately 90 to 110 mm.

24. (new) The method of claim 16, wherein:

during the first interval the second rotational speed is approximately 1 rpm, and the second return roller has a diameter of approximately 90 to 110 mm.

25. (new) A manure conveyor device, comprising:

a liquid-permeable conveyor belt drivable around return rollers;

a manure collection channel associated with a discharge end of an upper half of the conveyor belt;

a urine collection channel associated with a discharge end of a lower half of the conveyor belt; and

a liquid-tight trough through which the lower half of the conveyor belt travels.

26. (new) The manure conveyor device of claim 25, wherein the conveyor belt comprises a circulating manure conveyor belt arranged underneath a manure permeable floor associated with livestock operations.

27. (new) The manure conveyor device of claim 25, wherein one of the return rollers is adjustably supported for tensioning the conveyor belt.

28. (new) The manure conveyor device of claim 25, wherein the conveyor belt comprises a perforated plastic belt.

29. (new) The manure conveyor device of claim 25, wherein the return rollers are made of stainless steel.

30. (new) The manure conveyor device of claim 25, wherein a ground side of the trough is formed by a plastic sheet.

31. (new) The manure conveyor device of claim 25, wherein walls of the trough are formed by concrete strips.

32. (new) The manure conveyor device of claim 31, further comprising wall elements structured and arranged to accommodate the concrete strips, wherein each respective wall element comprises:

a vertical wall;

a horizontal base element; and

an inclined roof portion projecting in an inclined manner into an interior of the trough.

33. (new) The manure conveyor device of claim 32, wherein the inclined roof portion projects behind the vertical wall on a side of the vertical wall opposite the trough.

34. (new) The manure conveyor device of claim 32, wherein the wall elements are made of plastic.

35. (new) The manure conveyor device of claim 32, further comprising tubular eyelets on an inside of the vertical wall structured and arranged to accommodate bars or wires to connect respective wall elements in a longitudinal direction.

36. (new) The manure conveyor device of claim 32, further comprising perforated sheet metal elements structured and arranged to connect respective wall elements in a transverse direction.

37. (new) The manure conveyor device of claim 31, further comprising bearing rods supported in the walls of the trough for supporting the upper half of the conveyor belt.

38. (new) A manure conveyor device, comprising:
a manure conveyor belt;
a first return roller about which the manure conveyor belt circulates;
a second return roller about which the manure conveyor belt circulates;
a first motor structured and arranged to drive the first return roller; and
a second motor structured and arranged to drive the second return roller;
wherein the first return roller is driven faster than the second return roller during a first interval,
the second return roller is driven faster than the first return roller during a second interval,
and
the first return roller and the second return roller are not driven during a time period between the first interval and the second interval.

39. (new) The manure conveyor device of claim 38, further comprising at least one frequency controller structured and arranged to drive the first return roller and the second return roller in a same direction and at different rotational speeds.

40. (new) The manure conveyor device of claim 38, further comprising:
a manure collection channel associated with a discharge end of an upper half of the manure conveyor belt;
a urine collection channel associated with a discharge end of a lower half of the manure conveyor belt; and
a liquid-tight trough through which the lower half of the manure conveyor belt travels.